

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,245

Examiner

Dang T Nguyen

Applicant(s)

VERSEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

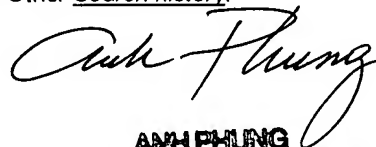
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11 March 2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search history.


ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: the Application and the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 11, 2004.
2. Claims 1 – 20 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 5, and 11 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 - 20 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1 and 5, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art does not teach or suggest "writing data to the first and the second memory cells to be subsequently read out; during read-out of one of the first memory cells, activating a relevant first word line and the first switching device while the second switching device is closed; and during read-out of one of the second memory cells, activating a relevant second word line and the second switching device while the first switching device is closed; wherein one of the first and one of the second memory cells are read in a sequence such that the first and the second switching devices are switched multiply during testing of the first and the second memory cells".

With respect to claim 11, in addition to other elements in the respective claim, the prior art does not teach or suggest "reading data from one of the first memory cells by activating a first word line and a first switching device connected to a sense amplifier and the first bit lines; reading data from one of the second memory cells by activating a second word line and a second switching device connected to the sense amplifier and

Art Unit: 2824

the second bit lines; and repeating the reading steps for remaining first and second memory cells”.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stief et al. (Pub. No.: US 2002/0154560 A1) discloses memory cells are disposed at crossover points between the bit lines and word lines.

Pochmuller (Patent No.: US 6,310,812) discloses first reference cells is checked in the test operating mode which is done by writing a datum to the first reference cells and subsequently reading it out again.

Duesman et al. (Patent No.: US 6,230,292 B1) discloses writing and reading occurring during a cycle of sequential timing signals that activates at least in part the sense amplifier, a word line, and a bit line.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Dang Nguyen, who can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-1955. Normal contact times are M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Upon an unsuccessful attempt to contact the examiner, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms, may be reached at (571) 272-1869.

Art Unit: 2824

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The faxed phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the Status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or EBC@uspto.gov.

Dang Nguyen 11/3/2004



**ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**